

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1, 48 and 58, and added claims 71-74, for the reasons explained in the Election with traverse filed on even date herewith. Claim 8 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

The preliminary amendment of September 5, 2000, which was filed under the old rules, said to amend claim 18 to replace "any of the preceding claims" with "claim 1". Claim 18 in fact recited "any of claims 15-17". We believe that under the then-existing practice, if applicant's intent was clear, claim 18 would have been amended to effectuate that intent. We believe claim 18 should be treated, based on those instructions, as if it had been amended to replace "any of claims 15-17" with --claim 1--.

However, to minimize procedural problems, we have cancelled 18 and replaced it with new claim 75, dependent on 15.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.
Attorneys for Applicant

By: 

Iver P. Cooper
Reg. No. 28,005

624 Ninth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001
Telephone: (202) 628-5197
Facsimile: (202) 737-3528
IPC:lms
G:\ipc\n-g\Plou\larsen1\pto pre amend2.wpd